

6 November 1981

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I have read your paper. The only major point I would disagree with is your recommendation that IHSA use the smaller estimates based on actual acquisitions and approved requests. The purpose of the exercise, according to the IHSA paper, was to define what we would want in an ideal situation. Actual acquisitions and approved requests have, for the most part, represented only what we could obtain given ODP constraints. Historically, ODP fills only 25% of the requests it receives. Speaking for the Office of Security, our estimates were based on a four-hour review of the OS/T0 to determine, slot by slot, what would be needed. Thus our estimate represents our needs in an ideal situation. Because IHSA is attempting to plan for new uses and facilities, I think the ideal figure is really the one wanted at this point.

The only other change I would make is in the applications for OS for small systems. OS has a very firm policy that safe combinations will never be placed on any type of computerized data base. Thus your application for OS should read just "Alarms and safes."

I agree with (and am glad you included) your idea of an overall configuration management scheme rather than detailed standards to which everyone must conform. Having worked from both the user and ODP end of things, I think we will have no option but to allow some offices to proceed on their own. We just do not have the manpower to help everyone quickly.

I hope these comments will be of use to you. I certainly appreciated the opportunity to review the draft. It presents a very clear picture of where we all would like to be in the office of the future.

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